

**POLICY AND BUDGET SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, MR SW LUBISI,**

Mpumalanga Legislature Chamber, Riverside Government Complex, 07/06/2011

Madam Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Honourable VS Siwela

Honourable Premier of Mpumalanga Province, Mr DD Mabuza

Members of the Executive Council of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government

Honourable Members of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Chairperson of The House of Traditional Leaders Inkosi Sipho Mahlangu,

Deputy Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders Kgosigadi Mohlala and other Traditional Leaders, Emakhosi neMakhosikati,

Executive Mayors, Speakers and Councillors representing various municipalities across the Mpumalanga Province

Former Presiding Officers and Deputy Presiding Officers of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature present here today

Acting Secretary to the Legislature Mr. LB Tshabalala, the broader Management and Staff of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

Director General of the Province Mr J Rabodila and other Head of Departments

Distinguished guests

People representing the different media houses in our Province

Ladies and Gentlemen

Compatriots

Good Afternoon, Sanibonani

We are rapidly moving closer to the mid-term of the 4th Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature and the 4th democratically elected ANC led Government. At the beginning of this term in the year 2009, we committed ourselves to *work together with our people to intensify oversight to foster service delivery to our people*. As we surge ahead, we are continuously guided by this commitment.

Winston Churchill once said *“Sure I am this day we are masters of our fate that the task which has been set before us is not above our strength; that its pangs and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our own cause and an unconquerable will to win, victory will not be denied us”*.

Indeed the task of conducting intensified oversight to foster service delivery to our people might not be easy but it is not above our strength. We remain steadfast in the quest for a better life for all in our life time and we have great faith in our course.

We are therefore committed to our task and shall continue to work tirelessly in pursuit of the will of the people; our journey is underpinned by noble objectives of eradicating the misery of poverty and inequality imposed to our people by our unfortunate past.

Francois Chateaubriand once said *“Every revolution is the consequence of one revolution and the beginning of another”* In our case here in South Africa; the ushering of the democratic state on the 27th of April 1994 presented us with another task of continuously deepening democracy but equally so to defend the gains brought about by the democratic dispensation.

In order to consolidate Democracy and the broader goals of the Freedom Charter we have always put emphasis on oversight and public participation both in legislative and governance work.

Today, I can proudly say that our country and province in particular has achieved a lot in dealing with the structural challenges presented by our past history of apartheid and colonialism.

Our democracy is underpinned by free and fair elections which have since 1994 periodically affirmed our democratic state through the ballot. I am certain that democracy is truly organic in South Africa. Indeed, we are on course to achieve *“a better life for all”*. Working together with our people, we are building a better country.

Local Government Elections 2011

Madam Deputy Speaker

On the 18th of May 2011 our country went to the polls to elect the third sphere of our democratic government, we wish to congratulate all the newly elected Mayors, Speakers and Councillors.

We further wish to appreciate the good work done by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) under the leadership of Dr. Brigalia Bam, Advocate P Tlakula, Mr. Steve Ngwenya in the Province and all political parties for their great contribution towards holding peaceful, free and fair municipal elections in the Mpumalanga Province and South Africa as a whole. We wish Dr. Bam all the best in her new endeavours when she retires from the IEC.

Free and fair elections are an indicator of the state of maturity of our democracy and South Africans should be proud for being able to achieve this outcome.

We therefore call on all the citizens of our province and the organised formations across the broader civil society movement in the province to work together with the elected public representative at local government in ensuring that the electoral mandate presented by the 18 May 2011 municipal election is realised.

Our immediate task arising out of this process shall be to launch the Provincial Speakers' Forum and to continue in assisting the Municipalities with the re-establishment of Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACS).

41st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference

Honourable Members

The 2010/11 financial year will always be remembered as the year during which the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature made phenomenal strides in both the country and the continent by successfully hosting the 41st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference.

I must say that this great achievement could not have been realised, had it not been the collective effort at political and administrative levels. Allow me to therefore extend our profound gratitude and appreciation to all honourable members and staff from Parliament, Legislatures across the country and the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature in particular for their contribution towards the successful hosting of that event.

Next week we will hand over the baton of leadership of CPA Africa Region to Rwanda who is the hosting nation for the 42nd Regional Conference. We appreciate the support accorded to us by the all the Legislatures in South Africa and the rest of the Commonwealth parliamentary community

Strategic Priorities and Performance Outlook

Madam Deputy Speaker

In the Year 2009 the 4th Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature identified seven (7) key strategic outcome-oriented goals to be achieved over the five-year period to ensure that it fulfils its constitutional mandate and achieves its vision and mission. These goals shall continue to characterise our work throughout this term.

It was of strategic and political imperative that our institutional planning architecture and philosophy, are underpinned not only by the governing party's electoral mandate but also the specific five overarching national key priorities of government which include the creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods; education; health; rural development, food security, and land reform; and the fight against crime and corruption.

Today, as we stand in this august house, we are pleased that our Five-year Strategic Plan and the current Annual Performance Plans for both Administration and Parliamentary Committees are informed and reflective of the five key priorities of the governing party in the course of this political term.

We firmly believe that the collective strategic and political decisions relating to our institutional planning architecture and philosophy are fundamentally aimed at ensuring that the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature is better positioned to fulfilling its constitutional mandate and to achieving its vision of becoming a people-centred, African, World Class Legislature.

We are therefore optimistic that our 2011/12 Annual Performance Plans which are based on the Five Year Strategic Plan, places us on a positive trajectory in the service delivery regime within the context of the constitutional obligation of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

Oversight

In the past financial year we reported that we were unable to finalise the Oversight Model. I am proud to report that we have finalised our Oversight and Accountability Model and we shall furthermore embark on a process of consultation with the other key stakeholders in the execution of oversight.

We will therefore during this financial year accelerate the implementation of the Oversight and Accountability Model. Throughout this term we will continue to hold the executive accountable on the five government priorities and the ten strategic priority areas outlined in the July 2009 Medium term Strategic framework of South Africa.

We have also formalised the function of oversight of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature in compliance with the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act 3 of 2010 which compelled us to put in place a committee that shall be responsible for Legislature oversight.

In this regard, we undertook a process to reconfigure some of our Portfolio Committees i.e. the Portfolio Committee on Premier's Office Finance: Safety and Security and the Portfolio Committee on Public Works; Roads and Transport were reconfigured to Legislature; Premier's Office and Finance and Public Works; Roads and Transport; Safety and Security respectively.

We thank the honourable members who served in the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislature Oversight who performed the Legislature Oversight Function and assisted in the finalisation of the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act 3 of 2010 since the year 2009. Their Contribution ensured that we lead by example on accountability for the public funds appropriated to us.

Millennium Development Goals and Oversight

We will intensify our assessment of the state's ability to achieve the Millennium development goals in its service delivery objectives. Noting that the year 2015 is quickly approaching us we will ensure that these issues shall occupy the forefront in our oversight work henceforth.

Petitions

Over the past year we have continued to perform oversight through petitions. We received thirty eight (38) new petitions and we were able to close twenty (20) including those carried over from the previous year. I must further indicate that at this stage there are twenty one (21) petitions to be closed soon.

Worth Mentioning is a petition from Gogophansi Builders who alleged that they were awarded a tender from the Department of Education to build ten classrooms, one administration block and ten toilets at Letsakutfula Primary School (Matsulu). They further alleged that he was not paid the outstanding amount of R503 043, 13.

The Legislature referred the petition to the Department of Education for intervention and report back and I am proud to report to this august house that the Department finally paid the outstanding amount of R503 043, 13. A letter of appreciation was received from the petitioner.

Allow me Madam Deputy Speaker to also give an account of Hope Programme an organisation that reported that the Tribal Authority gave a piece of their land to other people without permission from them; We referred the matter to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. After several interactions with the Department, the Tribal Office finally agreed to give the petitioners a piece of land similar to the portion given to the other party and the matter was closed.

Madam Deputy Speaker

The issues I have just given an account on represent numerous success stories of Legislature Oversight across the length and breadth of the Mpumalanga Province. In order to maintain public trust in the legislature as home for the will of the people and the desire for a better life for all, we shall continue to encourage and mobilise the citizens of the Province to use this oversight mechanism to their maximum benefit.

We are all conscious of the past two years during which our province experienced sporadic service delivery protests and I must say in order to mitigate these challenges we must mobilize our people to use petitions as an oversight mechanism capable to address individual and collective service delivery concerns.

Taking Legislature to the People

Madam Deputy Speaker

“Taking the Legislature to the People” is a mass participatory programme which does not only accord our people a unique opportunity to actively participate in our oversight programme but equally accord government an opportunity to account to our people. It affirms our commitment to the Freedom Charter adopted at the Congress of the People in Kliptown in 1955 when it says “The People shall govern”

In the past financial year we have for the 1st time held the Taking Legislature to the People programme twice within one financial year, most significantly we were able to integrate other legislature activities like the Debate on the Premier’s State of the Province Address into this programme.

In order to enhance participatory democracy the Legislature shall henceforth embark on this exercise twice per financial year. This will contribute immensely in the realisation of our strategic priority i.e. improve public involvement, especially of the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged in the legislative and oversight processes.

We wish to commend the efforts displayed by honourable members of the Legislature and the Executive Council as we implemented this programme in Thaba Chweu and Lekwa Local Municipalities respectively.

In order for the Legislature to fulfil its constitutional mandate of public involvement, we have acknowledged the importance of public education to enable all citizens of this province to participate in the legislative processes i.e. sittings of the Legislature, committee meetings, public hearings and petitions.

The increase witnessed in the number of people attending legislative activities, shows that our public education initiatives are yielding good results; we however, acknowledge the fact that a lot still needs to be done so that people from all walks of life can be reached; thus taking part in consolidating our democracy.

Prior to the recent Local Government Elections, we embarked on a public education programme to mobilise members of the public to vote on the 18th May 2011 during the Local Government Elections. I must say this programme was well received by the public and I believe it contributed immensely in the big voter turnout on the day of elections and I wish to thank honourable members for the good work done.

Law making

Madam Deputy Speaker

In line with our Law Making mandate, we have in the past financial year passed five pieces of legislation, including the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act, 2010, the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency Act and the Mpumalanga Appropriation Bills .

The passing of the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act, 2010 was yet another milestone in the process by which the Mpumalanga Legislature is asserting its autonomy.

During the first quarter of this financial year we have already processed three Section 76 bills i.e. the Division of Revenue Bill, 2011, the Sectional Tittles Schemes Management Bill, 2011, and the Community Schemes Ombuds Service Bill, 2011 in respect of which we have already conferred both negotiating and final mandates to our permanent delegates in the National Council of Provinces.

In the Province we are currently processing three Bills; the Mpumalanga Appropriation Bill, 2011, the Mpumalanga Youth Commission Act Repeal Bill, 2011 and the Ingoma Bill, 2011 which deals with a very important matter of customary law and practices.

A review of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service and Administration Act 7, 2006 will be conducted with an intention of closing all the noted gaps through and amendment process

We also hope that the Honourable Premier will during this financial year give assent to the Political Party Support Fund Bill which was passed by this august House on the 13th of October 2008. This Bill is essential in providing a legal framework for funding of political parties represented in the Mpumalanga provincial Legislature.

Regulations

Following the promulgation of the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act 3, 2010 (FMMPLA), we will this year finalise Treasury Regulations in terms of this Act. It should be noted that the full implementation of the Act is subject to approved Treasury Regulations.

Consultation with stakeholders including political parties will also be made in this regard. We will also put in place Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service Regulations in order to enrich the scope of application of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Service and Administration Act 7, 2006

Budgets and Expenditure Control

Honourable Members

The Legislature will continue to apply prudent financial management principles in its quest to control expenditure against allocated budget. To this end allocated budget will be used for the purpose to which it was intended.

Our treasury will intensify its monitoring role on the expenditure outcome for units, sections and divisions.

In order to exercise budgetary control, all divisions will be expected to provide Treasury with projections, explanations of material variances and remedial action to be taken on a monthly basis.

Improving efficiency

In Line with the Financial Management of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act, 3 of 2010, we are committed to ensuring that the Annual Performance Plans are implemented so that we are able to achieve our strategic objectives and outcomes respectively.

Results-based administrative and political accountability should necessarily occupy the centre stage in this regard. These deliberate efforts will ensure that the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature continues to contribute to the collective task and focus on achieving the expected real improvements in the life of all the people of the province.

Over the past five financial years the Auditor-General has continuously given an unqualified Audit Opinion to the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. Whilst it is achievement worth appreciating, we have however set a bigger target for ourselves to obtain a clean audit without any matter of emphasis by the year 2014.

The Audit Report for the financial year 2010/11 indicated that there is a need for the Legislature to improve accountability on non financial performance information; this is a very essential aspect if we truly seek to achieve a clean audit report and our administration has put in place stringent controls in the area of performance and evaluation. The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature should lead state departments by example as an institution responsible for oversight.

Enterprise Resource Planning/SAP

Honourable Members

In accordance with our report during the 2010/11 Policy and Budget Speech on the roll-out of an integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. I am proud to report that on the 1st of April 2011 we went live on SAP.

We have put in place the Financial Management and Human Capital Management Modules which marked the integration of BAS, LOGIS and PERSAL. Eventually, our core business will also form part of this integrated system when the e-petitions and document management modules are fully implemented.

Our transition has not gone without its teething problems like any act of innovation, however there will be greater rewards than pains felt due to this change process.

In order to mitigate any other potential challenges we shall continue to seek knowledge from those who have traversed this path before us like the Gauteng and North West Legislatures; an effort which has already proven to be of great assistance to our administration.

Furthermore, we will put in place strong quality assurance measures including an independent audit to the system conversion process in order to ensure that there is value for money in our investment.

This system will enable the Legislature to provide better up-to-date reporting on all its transactions and will improve the control measures with regard to the provisions of the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act 3, 2010 (FMMPLA).

Chamber Maintenance

Over the past year we have encountered increased system collapse in our chamber due to challenges arising out of absence of contractual obligations between the Department of Public Works; Roads and Transport and service providers plus power failure.

Whilst we acknowledge the centrality of the Department of Public Works; Roads and Transport in executing Facility Management function, we wish to inform this august house that it is a matter that we are engaging the Department on and we hope the interventions made by the Honourable MEC RC Mkasi shall bring positive results.

Organisational Structure review

Madam Deputy Speaker

In the 2010/11 Policy and Budget Speech we reported about our organisational review process, much as we sought to conclude the process in the previous financial year, we wish to report that we were unfortunately unable to fill all the identified posts in the 2010/2011 financial year.

This organisational review was informed by the need to respond to the changing needs of the organisation and mainly support to honourable members, support to committees, consideration of the demands presented by our core business and implementation of SAP. As an organisation that evolves with time our goal was to put in place an organisational structure that will positively respond to the challenges presented by the present discourse.

I wish to report to this august house that we have therefore begun a process of filling all funded vacant posts during this financial year. The approved organogram seeks to address all the noted challenges in relation to the support to members and the core business of the Legislature.

Whilst there may be other challenges due to budget constraints, we have indeed prioritised the support staff to members and committees as our point of departure for the 2011/12 financial year.

Our approach to the process of filling of vacancies shall be to seek the best possible candidates for each vacancy, to accord serving personnel career growth and to meet employment equity. As I stand before you processes are already underway to fill the funded vacancies and some have already been filled.

On the same nerve we shall continue to build our internal capacity in order to enhance the performance of our personnel. During this financial year, we have already subjected our personnel to Protocol training which we identified as an essential area of improvement post the 41st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference held in our shores last year.

Due to the challenges emanating out of the delinking exercise and job evaluation processes conducted by the Legislature in the past year, our administration have undertaken an exercise not only to ensure the placement of personnel according to their abilities within the organisational structure and in consideration of our organisational needs.

Madam Deputy Speaker

In order to expand our Public Participation mandate we have put in place a fully fledged Public Participation Section within our Parliamentary Operations Division.

Their task will be to ensure that more people of the Mpumalanga Province benefit from our petitions mechanism and to equally ensure that all resolutions taken by our stakeholders during sectoral parliaments are implemented and accounted for.

Internal Audit

During this financial year we intend to establish an internal audit section marking a breakaway from the previous trend where our internal audit was outsourced. We have however extended the internal audit contract with KPMG for a period not exceeding six months from the 1st of June 2011 in order to ensure smooth transition from the outsourced service to the internalised service as per the new structure.

Audit Committee

We will also urgently initiate the process of recruiting the new Audit Committee members since the term of the outgoing audit committee expired on the 31st of March 2011. We have extended the term for a period not exceeding six months. I wish to take this opportunity and voice our profound appreciation to the members of the outgoing audit committee under the leadership of Mr. AC Keyser for their informed advice and support.

Inter-parliamentary relations

Madam Deputy Speaker

In line with our commitment to strengthen participation in inter-parliamentary bodies for improving participatory democracy and co-operation during this term we shall continue to participate in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and other inter-parliamentary associations beyond our term as serving President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association(CPA) Africa Region.

Through this revered opportunity of leadership we have been accorded an opportunity to lead the constitutional review committee and to host the 41st CPA Africa Region Conference as earlier highlighted.

Furthermore, we will continue to create a lasting legacy for our term of office as regional President through the establishment of the Centre for Democracy and

Leadership which will be launched once all the terms of reference are finalised with the partner institutions and sponsors. It is our hope that this project shall contribute immensely towards democracy and leadership development in the continent.

Support to Committees

At the beginning of the Fourth Legislature, a commitment was made to strengthen support provided to Committees in general and honourable members in particular; the Legislature has created five new manager positions i.e. Economic Cluster, Social Cluster, Governance Cluster, National Council of Provinces and Select Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA). These positions are aimed at ensuring that Members get quality support to do their work.

In order to enrich support to honourable members we shall increase the number of researchers by filling the funded vacant post of researchers. On the same nerve we will fill all vacant posts in the Legal Section including the Manager: Compliance and Disclosure. We hope that this will help all our committees to excel in their duty.

Members Affairs/Capacity Building for members

Madam Deputy Speaker

In the Past Year we launched the Provincial Chapter of the Members' Capacity Building Programme; I am pleased to report to this house that although we started at a very slow pace we were able to complete the introductory phase of the members development programme.

We will also continue to provide capacity building programmes to ensure that honourable members gain more skills and knowledge to help them perform their work better and smarter.

Legacy Projects

In line with our commitment to create a lifelong legacy for the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature we will continue to implement various Legacy Projects in partnership with the private sector and state departments.

In the past financial year, the Annual Prayer breakfast was held in Lekwa Municipality, outside the precincts of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. The Annual Prayer breakfast is a Nation Building Project which seeks to bring

religious leaders together and to address the morality challenges confronting our society.

We wish to also report that negotiations with the potential sponsors are at an advanced stage for implementation of three Legacy Projects across the province during the Mandela Day on the 18th of July 2011. Further details will be outlined to Honourable members once the negotiations are finalised.

Special Tributes and Appreciation

Honourable Members

We take this opportunity to join the people of South Africa and the world in celebrating the life of an icon of the liberation struggle whose ascendance to leadership was not inspired by personal ambition and quest for self glorification, but the desire to see our country free and all our people enjoying equal rights. It is indeed gratifying that she lived to that day and freedom in South Africa was achieved in her lifetime

Throughout her political career and even in the last years of her life, Mama Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu has continuously epitomised selflessness and embodiment of humility. Our country is poorer due to her departure but our memories are richer with her living legacy. May her soul rest in peace.

During this Youth Month we take this opportunity and pay a special tribute and salute our young martyrs of freedom including Zolile Hector Peterson, Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu, Barney Molokwane, Nokuthula Simelane and Portia Shabangu.

Furthermore, we wish to pay a special tribute to all young lions who at their youthful years served this august house at the time when our country was departing from the evil past of apartheid rule into democracy who are unfortunately not with us anymore worth mentioning are, the late Mr. Phillip Radebe, the late Mr. Steve Mbuyisa, the late Mrs. Thoko Mabena and the veteran of the youth movement the late Mr. Ephraim Mogale who became a member of this august house having passed his youthful years but served the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) and the African National Congress with distinction. We owe our being to these servants of the people. For as long as we breathe we shall always celebrate their lives.

Madam Speaker

Allow me to proclaim our profound appreciation and gratitude to the Members of the Portfolio Committee on Legislature; Premier's Office and Finance under the leadership of the Honourable VVZ Windvoel for their input and advice during our interaction with the Portfolio Committee.

Our profound appreciation and gratitude also goes to the all the members who served in the Ad Hoc Committee for Legislature Oversight which was then led by the Honourable AF Mahlalela whose efforts laid a solid foundation for an effective Legislature oversight in the past two years.

We wish to thank the Office of the Auditor General for its continued support and informed professional advice in ensuring that we enhance our institutional performance.

We further convey our appreciation to the Deputy Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Hon VS Siwela, all the Presiding Officers, the Acting Secretary to the Legislature Mr. LB Tshabalala, the Management and the broader staff in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

My Sincere thanks goes to my family: especially my wife, my children for their unconditional support as I execute the mandate conferred to me by the glorious movement of the people; the African National Congress and the broader alliance structures.

Conclusion

As I conclude, I wish to say that; much as we have traversed thus far, the journey that lies ahead is long and challenging. As it was pronounced by the 1st President of the Democratic South Africa Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in his book Long Walk to Freedom When he wrote *"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on*

the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended."

The key to a better future resides in the present; a better future resides within our abilities and indeed we have faith in our course. Our quest for a better life is unstoppable. Working together we can do more to intensify oversight to foster service delivery to the people of the Mpumalanga Province.

Madam Deputy Speaker,

Allow me to table the Budget of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature for the 2011/12 financial year. The Budget as reflected in the Appropriation Bill as Vote 2 has increased with **14, 3%** from R169, 555 000 (One Hundred and Sixty Nine Million Five Hundred and Fifty Five Thousand rand) to R193, 974 000, One Hundred and Ninety three Million Nine Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand rand for the 2011/12.

The amount of R193, 974 000 (One Hundred and Ninety three Million Nine Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand rand) is allocated to the six Legislature programmes as follows: -

Programme 1:

Leadership and Governance including statutory obligations to Members of the Provincial Legislature: R57, 857 000 (Fifty Seven Million Eight Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand rand)

Programme 2:

Parliamentary Committees: R3, 471 000 (Three Million Four Hundred and Seventy One Thousand rand)

Programme 3:

Strategic management: R9, 157 000 (Nine Million One Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand rand)

Programme 4:

Parliamentary Operations: R45, 176 000 (Fourty Five Million One Hundred and Seventy Six Thousand rand)

Programme 5:

Financial Governance: R 22, 307 000 (Twenty Two Million Three Hundred and Seven Thousand rand)

Programme 6:

Corporate Services: R56, 006 000 (Fifty Seven Million and Six Thousand rand)

Total: R193, 974 000 (One Hundred and Ninety three Million Nine Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand rand)

Budget Shortfall

Honourable Members

Budget shortfalls in the Legislature budget should not exist. The promulgation of the Financial Management of Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Act 3, 2010 provides for top slicing in the budget allocation for the Legislature. The current approach to the budget of the Legislature must be altered.

We will therefore engage the Provincial Treasury on this matter with an intention of finding lasting solutions to the problem. In Anticipation of the 2012/12 Financial year we shall during this financial year conclude our planning cycle and budgeting cycle in line with FMMPLA a process which should therefore culminate in the Legislature receiving its top slice allocation prior the allocation to government departments is done. This will be another milestone in the implementation of FMMPLA.

If we truly seek to achieve democracy we must invest more resources in programmes that promote democracy. I must therefore indicate that in order to achieve the set goals we shall require an additional funding of **R76, 450 000**(Seventy Six Million Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand rand) to offset the shortfall which is mainly arising out of filling of vacancies, public education, the construction of a parliamentary village, partnerships with research institutions, and additional office space.

Our approach to this challenge is in two folds; firstly we shall implement austerity measures in order to create savings in expenditure by directing our financial resources to where they are desired most, secondly; we are requesting the Provincial Treasury to address the shortfall during this appropriation time or later in the financial year during the adjustment appropriation.

As much as we have continuously set these goals ahead of us, all the positive things we have achieved in our country are a product of sustained collective work by all those who believe that the better tomorrow is within our abilities. Truly, none of us can achieve all what has been set before us alone, but working together we shall prosper.